

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Despite Sinclair's claims to the contrary, their intention is to use this documentary, and to force all of their affiliates to use it, in an effort to sway the outcome of November's election. Why? Ask Sinclair which administration is most likely to positively benefit their stock prices, and you will have your answer.

The public airways are just that, public, and corporations like Sinclair are obligated by law to serve the public interest. The FCC's responsibility should be to protect the public's resources for the public good. What's good for large corporations is not necessarily good for the general public. When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. The more news outlets controlled by large corporations like Sinclair the harder it becomes for the general public to get reliable information on which to base civic judgments. Sinclair's decision to use the American people's airwaves show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.